

SPECTACLE SEEN FROM FRONT PORCH

The young man in jeans
was yelling 911
to every person in sight
as he clung like a leech
to the hood of his own stolen
car
determined that the thief would
not shake him off
down the pothole streets
until the police caught up
with them

MARTHEY PUTNAM

A good woman
with steady gray eyes
never blinked in the face
of droughts
cyclones
Depression
loss of three children to
diphtheria
Survived to live in decent
low-rent housing
enough food
if she is careful
but she tells the other side
to these benefits
I'm gonna buy me a gun
I hate the things
but old women gettin'
murdered
in their own homes
is something I never
counted on